



*Upstream of the Devil's Den trailhead on Deer Creek.*

**Award Amount**  
\$212,000

**Watershed**  
Deer Creek Watershed

**County**  
Butte and Tehama Counties

**CALFED Region**  
Sacramento Valley Region

**Legislative Districts**  
US Congress: 2  
State Assembly: 2  
State Senate: 4

## **Purpose**

Provide technical assistance for ranchers in the Deer Creek Watershed to prepare individual ranch plans to improve water quality and riparian areas.

## **Project Goals**

- Assist ranchers in developing ranch management plans.
- Provide personalized technical plans and monitoring support for ranchers in the Deer Creek Watershed.

## **Benefits to the CALFED Program**

*The Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP) states that an investment in Deer Creek will provide the types of restoration information needed to successfully move the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) forward. The ERPP further states that watershed planning through the locally driven Deer Creek Conservancy will help to preserve and restore spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout and other important attributes of the watershed. Implementation of this project is directly connected to the ERP's goal of improving conditions in the Deer Creek watershed. It also furthers Watershed Program goals by supporting education and outreach, facilitating and improving coordination among government agencies and local stakeholders, and implementing a strategy to improve watershed stewardship.*

## Project Overview

Deer Creek is a significant tributary to the Sacramento River, originating upstream of Deer Creek Meadows on the slopes of Butte Mountain. The watershed drains 200 square miles and is 60 miles long. The creek supports fall- and spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. According to the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, Deer Creek has the greatest spring-run Chinook salmon restoration potential of all Sacramento Valley streams.

The Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy prepared a comprehensive watershed management plan for Deer Creek and has begun its implementation. One element of the watershed management plan is to develop individual ranch plans to improve water quality and riparian areas. The Conservancy has found that local ranchers are very willing to participate in the process but need guidance to develop their ranch plan. This project provides the needed technical and personalized support to compile and complete a ranch plan and a monitoring program for each ranch property in the Deer Creek Watershed. The ranch plans assess existing conditions, develop economically achievable management measures, and establish a monitoring program for each ranch. Implementing the plans will contribute to the prevention or control of erosion and sedimentation and improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat in the Deer Creek Watershed.

Consultants and resource agency specialists provide technical assistance to the ranchers. These specialists provide expertise in grasslands management, soil erosion, geographic information system (GIS) mapping, and vegetation management. This assistance helps ranchers assess existing conditions of their ranchlands for possible improvements and protections against present or potential sources of contaminated runoff. The project also serves to demonstrate development of comprehensive ranch assessments and plans to support other local watershed programs.



*Upper watershed rangeland in the wintertime.*

## Contact Information

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